2/14/67

Dear Hal, Your letter of 2/11 with enclosures arrived this morning. There have been a few changes in our situations and conditions that I begin with, first congratulating you on getting a job, and with great tact and delicacy I'll not mention your failure to describe it.

First, the Dell book is doing well enough for them to have paid me the royalty on the first 100,000 copies and we have already spent it getting half way, perhaps a bit more (I avoid discussion of the unpleasantnesses with my wife, whose life has been too many of them) out of debt. I think we have enough she held back to finish paying the printer for II. We have paid him for I and part of II. Were the wholesalers to finish paying we'd probably be out of debt and could devote some time (were it tobe found) and money to moving from the basement in which we have lived most of our married lives!

I'm having a bit of trouble apparently with bursitis. Slows we down a little. Had to go to bed 9 o'clock one night, but I was up and going at four. Just finished a short New England tour on which the honoraria will about pay expenses but on which I got several radio and TV shows.

And I'm going to do MANCHESTER MACHIAVELLI: THE UNINTENDED UNOFFICIAL WHITEWASH. I actually turned down an offer of a $35,000 advance Friday because it would have required I do a Manchester on Manchester, which I will not do. A small publisher may do what I want, Manchester on the assassination and in the perspective you have often heard, now, I believe, more than amply confirmed by the terms of the settlements. I've done 12,500 words on his second Look piece, distinguished by having not a single factually correct statement about the assassination. It is in New Tork and causes this interest. However, I feel that if I do not do the slush and there is that much available for it, I'll have to pull all stops and rush to beat it out and keep this thing in a real perspective.

It seems to me inevitable that this may get us allies, if not in people in some power and influence in DC, quite possibly in Texas, which is hurting and both are in a much better position focusing on M than on the WC and the govt. There is Texas money available to imporve the image. It does not interest me and I can and will not approach it. I have met a former Texas newsman who was offered a job by Hunt to do the job.

If you have any suggestions, please make them. It will be a short book. I do not like the word "Machiavelli" because I feel there are too many who will not understand it. I fear Manchester alone because of confusion - people wanting this book may get his.

I am delayed on III by continuing researches, quite fruitful, and the business of mt artist, who cannot give upthe accounts on which he lives to do this. I fear to paste the documents up myself. It is a tricky job, not as simple as it seems, and I have only one copy of most. Some may not reproduce. So, with the additional chapters I intend to write, I'll have to wait for him. Meanwhile, within three weeks I should have the rough draft of Manchester, bursitis, mail and other considerations permitting. I'm going over my files on M now organizing them as I'll write. Sorry I left some of the Calif papers (especially the ones that point out M is in accord with the Commission's conclusions) out there. I left one with you, if you can still find it, and one with Bill, to whom I'll write.

Interest in III continues excellent, but with the increased size there seems to be a certainty that unless I charge more than $5.00 for it, which yields but $2.50 if the wholesalers pay(you'd be astounded at what is still owed on I) and even that will not pay the actual costs! In the few minutes I can find I'd like to locate a foundation that might help. Meanwhile, whenever it seems like it can help, I think I'll release some of the less important documents, for I think they can attract attention.

Now for your letter: Steve wrote me, but in less detail. I told him I'd like a transcript of the Liebeler thing very much, for some day he will not be able to avoid me and I think you know it will then not be like this "debate". I want everything I can have on him for them. If the college in British Columbia pays my way out I'll be on the west coast and can, perhaps now, challenge him. Bell hasn't answered my last letter, answering his plea that we needn't be enemies by telling him not to act as one and his plaint that the Times was not faithful to what he said by saying the course of honor then dictated a letter to the Times, copy to me. I enclose, in confidence, the rough draft of my first letter to him. It is the only spare copy I have. I'll use it when I want, when it will mean something. These guys, led by Burt Griffin, are trying to arrange a TV symposium under their control and I'm working on the people they made the proposal to. This is but one possibility. The other is for when I'm in Calif again or when they go after me again, when I'll release the entire correspondence. Same with Liebeler, with whom my correspondence goes back to 2/66. It has been hard for me to learn patience, but I am now in a situation where I have something new and fresh for every conceivable circumstance. Liebeler lied very much and often in the debate. Only Lane would let him get away with it. You will learn as time goes on that Lane really knows much less than he is credited with. His TV debate with Nizer, from which I was bounced after eviscerating Nizer on WOR radio, is only fair according to our partisans who were there, and the only thing he had going for him in England was the crudity of BBC.

I have reason to believe the picture Liebeler used was made for him by Schiller, formerly a professional photographer. I have prints of the two exhibits and they are now being analyzed by professional photographers for Saga in New York, which will want to use them if they seem faked. I should hear very soon....While on this trip I also let WNAC-TV make slides of my pictures and a few of the documents for use when appropriate. I think the time has now come for this, not alone to promote III, but I want to control it so it can be for a constructive purpose (one of the newsmen there has confirmed from a friend formerly in mil intelligence that there was a classification "crypto" and that it was above top secret). I think it best to leave the man who phoned in on the Joe Dolan show alone for a while. I'm much more interested in the man who had pictures of the scene but not the assassination and the jail before Oswald was shot, who phoned in on Morgan.

Let Liebeler Whitewash until I can get to him, but please keep me posted on everything he says. It may be very important. Next time I'm in NYC I'll phone an editor of the SEPost about the Srping 64 Lovelady story. I have more on that now, too, including the original FBI report from which Hoover quoted. The picture was taken in the FBI Dallas office. I have been in touch with Harris, who asked me to make a study of the shirt for him, and I did, and he has made no mention of writing any story himself. Sylvia is unhappy with him and suspects he has connections we would not particularly like.

Saw Manchester on Meet The Press. More than ever I'm convinced he is not sane. I am happy when these people lie. A friend made a tape for me and I'm getting a printed transcript.

I'll check further on Similas when I can, which is not now.

Id you meet the man who phoned in on KCBSand he has pictures, I ppomised to preserve any property rights he had in them and I'l like very much to see them. Harve said they'd make copies in return for the use when we make sense out of them, if we do. I am particularly anxious to see pictures taken from the island toward the Depository, but cannot imagine why anyone should have wanted to make that shot that day. He says he did. Even the unaltered landscaping might be important, or Willis, or other people in them.

The only enclosure makes no reference to Thornley and if quite interesting because of things other than the very interesting slip, if that is what it is, that you pojnt out. Please recall that in Whitewash I say that Oswald went through the motions of renouncing his citizenship but didn't when he could have, and that the sensation impited to his Connally letter was used to divert attention from his claim to connection and continuing connection with the Embassy, which he repeated in this interview. The tape in the in the archive, but I've never taken the time to listen to it. Can you get the identification of the station making the release and the date? Quite literally, Oswald, as an American citizen, was "under the protection of the American"EmbassyX, which is a defect in any legitimate speculation about the significance of his slip. The editing is what is very interesting, and for that reason I'd like the source, if possible, and I'd like to use it with the "Oswald is all right" stuff in III. I'll write for a copy of the record.

I'll also write the Canadian professor, but I'll wait until I hear from you on what time, after four weeks from now, you think would be best for me to be out there. If they want me to speak, it will get me on the west coast. Perhaps by then you'll have heard from him. Typing is a little painful now, which will encourage me to postpone writing though I'd like very much to go out there. I'll have to mail this without reading it for typos in order to make the mail. I'm looking firward to the other Xeroxes. I wrote Carl Yound asking for a copy of the Patsy tape but haven't heard. I'd like to be able to use it. From whom did you get it? I think I referred you to Bill, but I do not recall now. It is one of two such things, theother being the press conference, that also I do not have.

Thanks and regards to all,